

NEW BRUNSWICK HOME NEWS (NJ)
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Protesters prepare for CIA recruiters

Home News staff and wire report

Students, faculty and area peace activists are expected to demonstrate against the CIA's recruitment efforts on Rutgers University's Douglass Campus at 9 a.m. today to protest the CIA's actions throughout the world.

Kevin Canada, a Livingston College senior and Peace Center of Central Jersey member, said he will be involved with the protest because of the CIA's attempt to overthrow what he considers the legitimate government of Nicaragua and other "deplorable actions" committed throughout the world.

"We complain about the KGB, but it's OK for the CIA to kill people," Canada said.

Canada said the purpose of the protest is to raise consciousness about the CIA's activities and to inform the university administration that the demonstrators believe the CIA has no right to be on campus. He said that he believes Rutgers allows the CIA on campus because of research dollars the university's professors get from the CIA.

Joan Driscoll, a member of the group, said protesters also will try to engage fellow students in discussion, such as "Do these people know what the CIA does?"

"It's fairly common knowledge that the CIA activities are like that of a legalized Mafia," said Ms. Driscoll, a graduate student. "We don't want them here."

But Dr. Glenn Gamble, director of the university's Career Development Office, said he thought that the demonstration would have "no influence whatsoever" on the agency's recruitment efforts.

"There are well over 100 students who've indicated interest in the CIA," he said.

CIA recruiters plan to hold a general meeting at the campus center in the morning, then conduct private interviews with students. The agency primarily is interested in students with technical schooling in computer science and engineering, Gamble said.

The CIA is "not looking for spies," he said.

"I think basically students are aware of what's going on," Gamble added. "They try to understand the other person's point of view."

"Today's students don't feel the sensible way to register displeasure is not to seek a job with them," he said. "They try to change things from

within."

CIA public affairs officer Kathy Pherson, in Virginia, said the agency tries to fill a "wide variety" of jobs through recruitment on college campuses, which are considered a "major source" for new employees.

"Even during the '60s and '70s, the campus was the main place to go for people," she said. "A lot of times, the place to find people with interests in foreign affairs is on a campus. We've had a lot of interest all along."

Recruiters, visiting a couple of hundred campuses yearly, look for students in political science, cartography, history, languages, computer programming and engineering.

Ms. Pherson would not say how many people are employed by the intelligence agency, but estimated that a quarter of a million applicants seek jobs with the CIA each year. The small minority considered seriously must undergo the agency's unusually extensive security check, she said.

Groups supporting the protest, in addition to the peace center, include: African Heritage of New Brunswick, Central Jersey Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Medical Aid to El Salvador Campaign, People's Anti-War Mobilization (PAMO), Rutgers Newark PAM and Nicaragua Work Brigades.

Several of these groups have participated in protests against Johnson & Johnson, IBM and General Dynamics. According to the peace center, these corporations were targeted for protest because of "their involvement in apartheid, gentrification and other immoral acts."